

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 IO-14 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-07

EB-24 AGR-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-08 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 011616Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9755

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USDI WASHDC

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, DA, GL

SUBJECT: GREENLAND SALMON FISHERY; SERIOUS PROBLEM MAY ARISE

USDOC FOR DAVID H. WALLACE, NOAA AND FOR CARMEN J. BLONDIN,  
NMFS; USDI FOR DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND  
WILDLIFE; STATE PASS WILLIAM L. SULLIVAN. JR., COA-S/FW

REF: COPENHAGEN 2403

BEGIN SUMMARY. AFTER STOP IN GREENLAND IN-SHORE SALMON  
FISHING ON AUGUST 29 WHEN RECORDED CATCH WAS ABOUT 60  
TONES BELOW DANISH-ACCEPTED QUOTA OF 1191 TONS, SUBSEQUENT  
DELIVERIES OF SALMON OVER NEXT FEW DAYS SHOWED CATCH  
ACTUALLY AT 1197 TONS, SIX TONS OVER QUOTA. GREENLAND  
MINISTRY IS NOW CONSIDERING REQUEST BY GREENLAND FISHER-  
MEN TO PERMIT ECONOMICALLY HARD-PRESSED NORTHERN  
FISHERMAN TO PROCEED IN FISHING FOR FIFTY TON PORTION  
OF QUOTA WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PROMISED THE.  
MINISTRY FULLY RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH AUTHORIZATION WOULD  
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BE CONTRARY TO AGREEMENT REACHED AT HALIFAX ICNAF

MEETING BUT IS CONCERNED THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD CAUSE GOVERNMENT SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH GREENLANDERS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26, UNDER SECRETARY ERIC HESSELBJERG OF THE MINISTRY OF GREENLAND TOLD ECON COUNSELOR, WHO HAD BEEN VISITING HIM ON ANOTHER MATTER, THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE GREENLAND FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR PERMISSION TO REINSTITUTE THE 50-TON SHARE OF THE QUOTA WHICH HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR THE NORTHERN GREENLAND FISHERMEN (REFTEL). THIS SUB-QUOTA HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WHEN, ON AUGUST 29, THE GREENLAND CATCH REACHED 1143 TONS AND ALL OTHER SALMON FISHING WAS PROHIBITED. HESSELBJERG SAID THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, BY SEPTEMBER 4, DELAYED SALMON DELIVERIES REACHING THE BUYERS BROUGHT THE RECORDED CATCH TO 1197 TONS WHICH MEANT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OVER FOR THE NORTHERN FISHERMEN.

2. HESSELBJERG SAID THE GREENLAND FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION ARGUES THAT THE DANISH AND NORWEGIAN HIGH SEAS SALMON CATCH HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY BELOW THIS YEAR'S QUOTA AND THEREFORE FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DAMAGE TO THE RESOURCE IF ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED NORTHERN FISHERMEN WERE PERMITTED TO CATCH A MODEST FIFTY TONS. HE FELT THAT AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF THE REQUEST WOULD BE DIFFICULT, GIVEN BOTH THE ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE THESE SMALL FISHERMEN HAVE ON THE SALMON CATCH AND THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES IN GREENLAND ON THIS ISSUE. HE FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT GRANTING OF THE REQUEST WOULD MEAN THAT DENMARK WOULD EXCEED THE QUOTA WHICH IT HAD ACCEPTED. HE WAS NOW TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS DILEMMA. HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THIS YEAR THE SALMON CAME TO ALL PARTS OF THE WEST COAST AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, HE THOUGHT THERE WAS SOME CHANCE THAT THE NORTHERN FISHERMEN HAD ALREADY CAUGHT PART OF THE RECORDED CATCH. TO FIND THIS OUT, HE WAS SENDING A REQUEST TO GREENLAND FOR SALMON CATCH STATISTICS BY DISTRICT. SHOULD HE BE PROVEN RIGHT, HE WOULD HAVE A SOMEWHAT EASIER JOB IN REJECTING THE ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST. HE SAID HE WOULD AWAIT THE REPORT BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION.

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3. EMBOFF STRONGLY STRESSED THAT PERMISSION FOR THE QUOTA TO BE EXCEEDED BY A FURTHER FIFTY TONS WOULD BE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE COMMITMENT GIVEN BY DENMARK AT HALIFAX AND, WHILE HE SYMPATHIZED WITH HESSELBJERG'S DILEMMA, THE CONSEQUENCES OF PERMITTING ANOTHER 50 TONS TO BE TAKEN COULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT. HESSELBJERG WAS OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WANTED US TO BE AWARE OF HIS PROBLEM. HIS REQUEST TO THE GREENLANDERS FOR A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN IS NOT ONLY A HOLDING ACTION BUT ONE WHICH COULD RESOLVE HIS DILEMMA IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THE NORTHERN FISHERMEN HAD OBTAINED SOME SHARE OF THE CATCH. HE HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED THAT STRICTER CONTROLS ON THIS YEAR'S SALMON CATCH HAD RESULTED IN A CLOSE COMPLIANCE WITH THE QUOTA. HE IS THEREFORE PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY WITH A REQUEST WHICH, IF GRANTED, WOULD MEAN A DELIBERATE AUTHORIZATION TO GO OVER-QUOTA. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WOULD FIND IT POLITICALLY DIFFICULT TO DENY A SMALL SHARE OF THE CATCH TO THE NORTHERN GREENLAND FISHERMAN WHO ARE MOST IN NEED OF ECONOMIC HELP.

5. WE HAVE NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR U.S. ACTION AT THIS STAGE BEYOND THE WARNING ALREADY GIVEN MR. HESSELBJERG. WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE STATISTICAL SURVEY. WE ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN OUR URGING THE DANES TO HOLD THE LINE AT THE AGREED QUOTA. DUNNIGAN

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